



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **DOCTORS, MEDICAL SUPPLY BUSINESSES CHARGED WITH \$2.3 MILLION MEDICARE FRAUD**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that two physicians and several businesses have been charged in federal court with participating in a scheme to defraud Medicare of millions of dollars through a program that provides motorized wheelchairs to patients.

**Raphael Igbokwe**, 49, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Nigeria residing in Kansas City, his brother **Kennedy Igbokwe**, 27, a citizen of Nigeria, **Godwin Iloka**, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Nigeria residing in Lee's Summit, Mo., **Roland Edomobi**, also known as Roland Godfrey, 45, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Cameroon residing in Texas, **Amazair McAllister**, 48, of Blue Springs, Mo., a licensed medical doctor, and **Ambrose Wotorson**, 70, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Liberia residing in Kansas City, a licensed osteopathic physician and surgeon, were charged in a federal criminal complaint that was filed under seal in U.S. District Court in Kansas City on Monday.

**Iloka**, **McAllister** and **Wotorson** were arrested on Thursday. **McAllister** was released on a \$25,000 unsecured bond with a special condition prohibiting him from filing Medicare claims. **Wotorson** was released on a \$10,000 unsecured bond with a special condition prohibiting him from filing Medicare claims. **Iloka** remains in federal custody pending a detention hearing on , Dec. 20, 2005.

Today's criminal complaint alleges that more than \$2.3 million in fraudulent Medicare reimbursements were paid to the defendants, as well as nearly \$260,000 in fraudulent Missouri Medicaid reimbursements, during the scheme to fraudulently obtain reimbursements for motorized wheelchairs for patients who didn't qualify for them or to bill Medicare for equipment they did not actually supply to beneficiaries.

The alleged fraud scheme involves Medicare's program (known as Part B) that covers the

cost of physicians' services and certain other services such as durable medical equipment. Under this program, Graves explained, Medicare pays 80 percent of the allowed amount of claims submitted by medical providers who certify that they performed a reasonable and medically necessary service to an eligible patient. If a physician completes a Certificate of Medical Necessity (CMN) verifying that a Medicare beneficiary is so physically disabled that he needs a motorized wheelchair in order to move about, the CMN can be used to get Medicare to pay approximately \$4,000 toward the cost of purchasing a power wheelchair.

**Raphael Igbokwe** owns and operates Prucare Health Services, also known as Prucare Medical Supply, at 1734 E. 63rd St. in Kansas City, Mo. **Kennedy Igbokwe** owns and operates Cardinal Healthcare at 1105 E. 47<sup>th</sup> St., in Kansas City, virtually next door to Prucare. **Iloka** owns and operates Xcellent Medical Service at 9500 E. 63<sup>rd</sup> St. in Raytown, Mo., and Xcellent Medical Services at 4403 Blue Parkway in Kansas City. **Edomobi** operates Quest Rehabilitation Services, a medical supply company at 6145 Troost in Kansas City. **McAllister** conducts his medical practice out of the same building occupied by Quest. **Wotorson** conducts his medical practice out of the same building occupied by Prucare Health Services.

After Medicare officials became suspicious that **Raphael Igbokwe** was submitting false and fraudulent claims through a company he operated under the name of Prucare, **Igbokwe** allegedly shut down the Prucare company, adopted a new alias, and opened a new company called Prucare that continued submitting the exact same type of false and fraudulent power wheelchair claims to Medicare.

According to an affidavit filed in support of today's federal criminal complaint, physicians **Wotorson** and **McAllister** completed numerous CMN's falsely and fraudulently certifying that it was medically necessary for Medicare beneficiaries to receive power wheelchairs. **Raphael Igbokwe, Kennedy Igbokwe, Iloka** and **Godfrey** – as the owners and/or operators of several different medical supply companies – allegedly used these false and fraudulent CMNs to submit numerous false and fraudulent claims to Medicare for power wheelchairs. After receiving approximately \$4,000 from Medicare for each of these fraudulent claims, the affidavit says, they sometimes did not provide the Medicare beneficiary with any type of wheelchair, or would frequently provide the Medicare beneficiary with a "scooter" that was much less expensive than the power wheelchair they fraudulently had billed to Medicare.

**Raphael Igbokwe, Kennedy Igbokwe, Iloka** and **Godfrey** submitted 989 claims for power wheelchairs from January 2002 through September 2005, the affidavit says, of which 739 claims, or nearly 75 percent, were referred by either **Wotorson** or **McAllister**. The affidavit alleges that most, if not all, of the billings submitted by the defendants' companies are fraudulent. In total, the firms submitted \$5,499,415 in claims to Medicare, which reimbursed \$2,308,188. They also submitted a total of \$343,543 in claims to Missouri Medicaid, which reimbursed \$259,474.

According to the affidavit, some of the beneficiaries were never examined by a physician and some didn't request wheelchairs. One beneficiary, for example, stated she did not want a wheelchair and has never used the wheelchair she received, which was abandoned on the front

porch. Nearly all of the beneficiaries paid no co-payments for wheelchairs, scooters, or physician examinations, in violation of Medicare regulations.

In some cases, the affidavit says, recruiters were paid to solicit new beneficiaries at stores and senior citizen centers, on buses, or going to door to door in apartment buildings. They allegedly transported some of the beneficiaries to the offices of **Wotorson** and **McAllister** so that a fraudulent CMN could be prepared during a perfunctory and sham office visit.

This case is being prosecuted by Senior Litigation Counsel Gene Porter. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Office of Investigations for the Health and Human Services Inspector General.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html)